

Preparing for Pandemic Influenza: Rhode Island Summit with Governor Carcieri and Secretary Leavitt

Biographical information about the speakers (in alphabetical order)

John Aucott Director of Homeland Security Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency	<p>John Aucott coordinates a broad array of programs, including exercises, training programs, crisis management planning, grants, and emergency response. Over the past 25 years, Mr. Aucott has held various positions in the field of emergency management at the federal, state and local levels. He is also an active participant in the work of the National Governors' Association and the National Emergency Management Association on terrorism and emergency management activities.</p> <p>As a recognized expert in Incident Command System (ICS), Mr. Aucott provides training to federal, state and local agencies and assists organizations with incorporating ICS into their emergency response plans. He has authored several courses for first responders and has also lectured on terrorism and incident command at the US Naval War College, Harvard School of Public Health and the Defense Institute of International Legal Studies.</p>
	<p>Mr. Aucott attained a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Rhode Island and is a graduate of FEMA's Professional Development Series. He was recently selected by the American Society for Public Administration to be part of an advisory group looking at the governance challenges and issues that arose when Hurricane Katrina struck.</p>
Scott Avedisian Mayor City of Warwick	<p>Warwick Mayor Scott Avedisian was born in Warwick and educated in the public schools of Warwick and Washington, DC. He was graduated from Providence College, attended graduate classes at the University of Rhode Island, completed the State and Local program at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and is a graduate of Leadership Rhode Island. Prior to his election as the 15th Mayor of the City of Warwick, Avedisian served five terms as a member of the Warwick City Council.</p> <p>Mayor Avedisian, who is currently the President of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, has a long history of public service. Beginning in his high school days, Avedisian was a page to the late United States Senator John Chafee, a legislative aide for the Rhode Island Senate, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Republican Party, and Deputy Campaign Manager for Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Almond.</p> <p>Several months ago, Mayor Avedisian established, by executive order, a committee comprised of the city's EMA chief and department directors, which was charged with writing a continuity of government plan for the City of Warwick. The plan has been developed along guidelines set forth by the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency and ensures that the city is prepared should a pandemic or other emergency affect Rhode Island.</p>
Donald L. Carcieri Governor State of Rhode Island	<p>Donald L. Carcieri was inaugurated as the 57th Governor of the State of Rhode Island in January, 2003. A native Rhode Islander and Brown University graduate, he began his business career at Old Stone Bank where he ultimately served as Executive Vice President. An experienced business leader, Governor Carcieri has also lent his expertise to the nonprofit sector. In 1981, he and his family moved to Kingston, Jamaica to head the Catholic Relief Services' West Indies region. In 1983, he joined Cookson America as the President of a small start-up company in the group. He later became Chief Executive Officer of Cookson America and Joint Managing Director of Cookson America Worldwide.</p> <p>Governor Carcieri has dedicated himself to advancing the four key components for Rhode Island's current and future prosperity: good government, good schools, good jobs, and a good</p>

place to live.

In November, Governor Carcieri announced plans to form a pandemic flu working group to plan for, prevent, and respond to the possibility of an outbreak of pandemic flu in the United States. He directed Dr. David Gifford, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Health, to form and chair this working group to update the state's comprehensive plans to address a potential pandemic flu outbreak. The working group's report, released in December, identified a number of specific strategies to achieve the goals of informing the public before and during an influenza pandemic, slowing and preventing the disease, providing needed medical care, and continuing operations of essential services in state government and the public sector.

Richard H. Carmona, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.S.	Vice Admiral Richard H. Carmona was sworn in as the 17th Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service on August 5, 2002.
United States Surgeon General	Born and raised in New York City, Dr. Carmona dropped out of high school and enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1967. While enlisted he received his Army General Equivalency Diploma, joined the Army's Special Forces, ultimately becoming a combat-decorated Vietnam veteran, and began his career in medicine.
Commander, USPHS Commissioned Corps	<p>After leaving active duty, Dr. Carmona attended Bronx Community College, of the City University of New York, where he earned his associate of arts degree. He later attended and graduated from the University of California, San Francisco, with a bachelor of science degree (1977) and medical degree (1979). At the University of California Medical School, Dr. Carmona was awarded the prestigious gold headed cane as the top graduate. He has also earned a masters of public health from the University of Arizona (1998).</p> <p>Dr. Carmona has worked in various positions in the medical field including paramedic, registered nurse and physician. Prior to being named Surgeon General, Dr. Carmona was the chairman of the State of Arizona Southern Regional Emergency Medical System, a professor of surgery, public health and family and community medicine at the University of Arizona, and the Pima County Sheriff's Department surgeon and deputy sheriff. He has also served as a medical director of police and fire departments and is a fully-qualified peace officer with expertise in special operations and emergency preparedness, including weapons of mass destruction.</p>
David R. Gifford, MD, MPH	David R. Gifford, MD, MPH, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Health, specializes in Internal Medicine/Geriatrics. He completed his primary care residency and geriatric fellowship at UCLA after graduating from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. While a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar, Dr. Gifford received his Master's in Public Health (MPH) in Epidemiology from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). He joined the faculty at Brown University in August of 1995, where he currently holds a position as Associate Professor of Medicine & Community Health.
Director	Prior to his appointment as Director of Health for Rhode Island in March, 2005, Dr. Gifford served as Chief Medical Officer for Quality Partners of Rhode Island where he directed hospital and nursing home-based quality improvement projects. Dr. Gifford participates in several national professional organizations and serves on national, state and local health-related committees including the Board of Directors for the RI Quality Institute.
Rhode Island Department of Health	Dr. Gifford's vision for the coming years focuses on "doing public health better" in Rhode Island by improving ethnic/racial health disparities, nursing home quality, childhood obesity/lack of physical activity and emergency preparedness through emphasizing the use of prevention interventions, information technology, partnerships/collaboration, public health information and improving customer service.
Kathleen C. Hittner, MD	Dr. Kathleen C. Hittner is the President and Chief Executive Officer of The Miriam Hospital, a 247-bed, tertiary care hospital noted for its excellence in cardiac care on the East Side of Providence, Rhode Island. She earned a BS from Albright College and is a graduate of Tufts University School of Medicine. She completed her residency in clinical anesthesiology in 1976 at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, DC, where she became Chief Resident in Anesthesiology. In 1979, Dr. Hittner moved to Rhode Island to begin her long tenure as a clinician and administrator at The Miriam Hospital. In April 2000, Dr. Hittner was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of The Miriam Hospital and in January 2001 became
President and CEO	
The Miriam Hospital	

President of The Miriam Hospital Foundation.

In addition to her numerous administrative duties at The Miriam Hospital, Dr. Hittner still practices as an anesthesiologist one day per week and has an active career as an educator. She has been on the faculty of Brown Medical School since 1979, where she is currently a Clinical Professor of Surgery in Anesthesiology. She was the recipient of the School of Medicine's "Distinguished Teacher Award" in 2000 and 2004.

Dr. Hittner was named one of the "Top Docs" in the state by *Rhode Island Monthly* in 2000, 2002 and 2004, and received the American College of Healthcare Executives Regents Awards "Early Career Award" in May 2002. In January 2004, Senator Jack Reed recognized her as a *Local Legend in Rhode Island* for her accomplishments as a women physician. Albright College, her alma mater, has named her a distinguished alumna for 2005.

Mike Leavitt

Secretary of Health and Human Services

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Michael O. Leavitt was sworn in as the 20th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on January 26, 2005. As secretary, he leads national efforts to protect the health of all Americans and provide essential human services to those in need. He manages the largest civilian department in the federal government, with more than 66,000 employees and a budget that accounts for almost one out of every four federal dollars.

Prior to his current service, Leavitt served as Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Governor of Utah. While at EPA, Leavitt signed the Clean Air Diesel Rule, implemented new, more-protective air quality standards for ozone and fine particle pollution and organized a regional collaboration of national significance to clean and protect the Great Lakes.

The people of Utah elected Mike Leavitt governor three times. Prior to leaving the statehouse to work in the Bush Administration, he was the nation's longest-serving governor. During his eleven years of service, Utah was recognized six times as one of America's best managed states. He was chosen by his peers as Chairman of the National Governors Association, Western Governors Association and Republican Governors Association because of his ability to solve problems across partisan lines.

Chet Lunner

Acting Director, Office of State and Local Government Coordination

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Mr. Chet Lunner became Acting Director of the Office of State and Local Government Coordination after several years as Assistant Administrator for Maritime and Land Security in the Transportation Security Administration within the Department of Homeland Security, and before that, two years as Assistant to the Secretary and Director of Public Affairs at the Department of Transportation (DOT). While at the Department of Transportation, he played a crucial role in its response to the events of September 11th and was a founding member of the team that developed the TSA.

Mr. Lunner has worked in the office of Congressman Amo Houghton (NY-31). He served as Communications Director and later Chief of Staff for Houghton, a leading Republican on the House Ways and Means Committee. During this time, Lunner coordinated bipartisan congressional retreats that brought together nearly 200 representatives and their families to promote civility and cooperation in Congress.

Before joining Houghton's staff Mr. Lunner was no stranger to Washington. In a journalism career that spanned 25 years, he covered Congress the Democratic and Republican National Conventions, and brought the realities of the 1991 Gulf War to the pages of USA Today.

Dan McCardell

Director, Office of Business Liaison

U.S. Department of Commerce

Dan McCardell serves as the Director of the Office of Business Liaison at the U.S. Department of Commerce. In this capacity, Dan is responsible for serving as a conduit for communicating between the Department of Commerce and the business community.

With the Department of Commerce serving as the "voice of business in government," Dan works on a wide range of issues from the health of the overall economy to trade to individual regulatory and policy issues. Dan has been in this position since 2003. Prior to joining the Commerce Department, he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of Treasury, where he worked towards the passage of three major pieces of tax legislation, including the President's Jobs & Growth Act of 2003.

	<p>Before serving in the Bush Administration, Dan worked on the 2000 Bush Campaign in Austin, Texas and previous to that spent multiple years in the financial services industry doing institutional brokerage with a specialization in financial services issues. Dan is a native of Virginia and was educated in Foreign Affairs at the University of Virginia.</p>
<p>Vince McNamara</p> <p>Business Continuity Manager</p> <p>GTECH Corp.</p>	<p>Vince McNamara is responsible for the development and implementation of GTECH's Business Continuity Program. Vince Has over 14 years of both public and private sector experience in emergency management, disaster recovery, business continuity, and crisis management.</p> <p>Prior to coming to GTECH, Vince was Vice President and Director of Business Continuity for MFS Investment Management in Boston working on the development of MFS' global continuity program.</p> <p>Vince began his career working in emergency management for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) responding to national disasters. He is certified business continuity professional with the Disaster Recovery Institute, International and is a long time member of the New England Disaster Recovery Information Exchange (NEDRIX).</p>
<p>Andrew C. Spacone</p> <p>Senior Associate General Counsel & Assistant Secretary</p> <p>Textron Inc.</p>	<p>Textron is a Fortune 200 company headquartered in Providence, RI with worldwide operations in the defense, aerospace, industrial and finance sectors.</p> <p>In addition to core legal responsibilities, Mr. Spacone acts as Director of Textron's Crisis Management Team. He is responsible for managing Textron's crisis management plan, which addresses procedures for preventing and responding to crisis situations world-wide that affect the safety and security of Textron's employees and facilities. He has thirty years of active and reserve military duty, having obtained the rank of Colonel.</p> <p>Mr. Spacone developed and implemented Textron's crisis management plan, which includes activation in October 2005 of company avian flu response plan for operations worldwide. Avian flu plan includes employee education, prevention; internal and external communications protocols; reporting procedures; and planning for business continuity. The plan has been disseminated to all operations through business unit crisis managers and their counterparts. The primary goals of the plan are protection of employees and continuation of business in the event of avian flu pandemic. The plan also includes an operational matrix that identifies critical actions which need to be taken based on the severity of the flu and action checklist for the operations. The plan is based on industry best practices, discussions with outside consultants and input from Textron crisis management team, which consists of corporate and business unit representatives from several functional areas.</p>